TOK Essay Plan 1

**“The possession of knowledge carries an ethical responsibility.” Evaluate this claim.”**

**Essay title re-worded:** Having knowledge comes with ethical decisions

**Key terms/definitions:**

* **Possession –** the state of having, owning or controlling something
* **Ethical –** of or relating to moral principles or the branch of knowledge dealing with these
* **Responsibility –** the state or fact of having a duty to deal with something

**Examples:**

1. If you see our friend steal money from someone’s bag you have gained knowledge of the fact that your friend stole it from that person’s bag. Now it is up to us to decide whether we should tell the person that your friend stole their money, or save your friend, or warn your friend and tell them to put the money back.
2. If a patient is in need of an organ transplant and the only other option is to turn on the life support. However their religion does not agree with organ transplants. The doctor and the patients family have a choice as to whether to follow their ethics and/or religion and deny the organ transplant or follow their emotions and go ahead with it.

**Knowledge Issue:** Howcanhaving certain knowledge result in the making ethical decisions of how to use this knowledge?

OR

Howdo ethics and morals affect the way in which knowledge is used or expressed?

**Areas of Knowledge:**

* Ethics
* Religion
* Human sciences
* Natural sciences

**Ways of Knowing:**

* Emotion
* Perception
* Reason

**Why I chose it?** Everyday we gain some kind of knowledge, whether educational or a simple, common fact about someone or something else. We may not realize it and most probably none of us actually think about it but the way we use this knowledge is reflected on the morals and ethics in our life, including our perception of what is right or wrong. The examples explain this well. I think that investigating something that happens in our daily life in detail would be very interesting and many different situations could be brought up with the different areas of knowledge.

**“The traditional TOK diagram indicates four ways of knowing. Propose the inclusion of a fifth way of knowing selected from intuition, memory or imagination, and explore the knowledge issues it may raise in two areas of knowledge.”**

**Essay title re-worded:** If a fifth way of knowing was to be added to the TOK diagram that shows only four, out of Memory, Intuition and Imagination which one would you add and discuss the knowledge issues that would arise in two areas of knowledge.

**Key terms/definitions:**

* **Propose –** put forward (an idea or plan) for consideration or discussion
* **Intuition –** the ability to understand something immediately, without the need for conscious reasoning
* **Imagination –** the faculty or action of forming new ideas, or images or concepts of external objects not present to the senses/ the ability of the mind to be creative or resourceful

**Areas of Knowledge:**

* Human sciences
* Literature

**Knowledge Issue:**

1. What role would imagination play in the understanding of human sciences?
2. How does imagination affect literacy?

**Ways of Knowing:**

* Emotion
* Perception